

May 5, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

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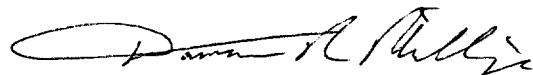
Dear Commissioner Henney:

I'm writing to express my support for the Humane Farming Association's (HFA's) petition (Docket 99P-0033/CP 1) to end the U.S. practice of feeding dead farm animals (pigs, horses, etc.) to other farm animals. This practice of forcing herbivorous animals to become carnivores in essence parallels the same procedure engaged in by the British when they experienced the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow" disease calamity beginning in the mid 1980's. British cattle were consuming the remains of sheep, cattle, and other animals deemed unfit for human consumption.

Despite the British outbreak, the dangerous practice of feeding rendered meat and bonemeal to livestock has been widely practiced in the U.S. where no meaningful restrictions were even attempted until 1997. Today, the U.S. still allows practices that should be banned, i.e., feeding pigs to pigs, pigs to cattle, and cattle blood products to calves. These practices are allowed despite suggestive evidence that Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) may already infect pigs, cattle, and squirrels and despite the existence of proven TSEs in sheep, deer, elk, and mink.

Due to the long incubation period, it will be many years before the extent of "mad cow" disease and its associated human deaths are known. Estimates of eventual deaths in Britain now range from the dozens to several thousand. To prevent a similar type disaster from developing in the U.S., I urge you act on the HFA petition to stop feeding animals to farm animals.

Sincerely,



Damon R. Phillips
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99P-0033

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